
Stephen J. Beres

Stephen J. Beres, 84, of Mountain Top entered into eternal life unexpectedly Tuesday, Dec. 24, 2013, in Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center, Plains Township, ironically on his favorite day of the year, Christmas Eve.

Born Sept. 2, 1929, in Wilkes-Barre Township, he was a son of the late Michael and Elizabeth Berish.

After high school, he proudly served his country in the [U.S. Navy](#) from 1950 to 1955.

Upon discharge, he enrolled at East Stroudsburg State Teachers College, earned a master of education degree from Scranton University and received his superintendent certification from Lehigh University. He was an educator his whole career, retiring in 1993 as principal of Rice Township Elementary School, Mountain Top.

Affectionately known to his family and friends as "Pop," "the Energizer Bunny" or "master of all trades," he was always a phone call away, any time, any place, sticking by our side through thick and thin. Known and loved for many things, a couple of his favorite quotes were "Hey don't kiss my Gramma!," "Never see it from the bridge" and "a blind man would love to see it."

He especially loved spending time with his family and simple pleasures of being Santa on his favorite holiday, Christmas, watching Eagles football and Red Sox baseball, his annual family vacations to Ocean City, Md., and eating vanilla ice cream.

Pop was a longtime member of the Catholic War Vets, Post 274, Ashley, and the American Legion, Post 781, Mountain Top.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his siblings, John, Mary Nilon, Michael, Joseph and Andrew.

He is survived by his loving wife and soulmate of 64 years, Norma Motovidlak Beres; daughters, Maribeth and husband, Chip Galbraith, and Cheryl and husband, George Thomas; grandchildren, Bryan Thomas, Meghan and Justin Galbraith; and great-granddaughter, Reilly Olivia, the love of his life and the sparkle in his eye.

Funeral services will be held at 8:45 a.m. Saturday from Jendrzejewski Funeral Home, 21 N. Meade St., Wilkes-Barre, with a Mass of Christian Burial at 9:30 a.m. in St. Jude Parish, 420 S. Mountain Blvd., Mountain Top.

Private interment will be held in Calvary Cemetery, Drums.

Friends may call from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Memorial donations may be made to Hospice of the Sacred Heart.

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